

The Karen resistance has been purged of its unruly and opportunist elements and, as result, its morale has been boosted higher than ever.

The Mae Tha Raw Hta Agreement, signed by all the major ethnic nationalities, except one, was a blow to the military junta. In this Agreement, the signatories pledged unity of purpose and action, total support and acceptance of the struggle for human rights and democracy. The participants condemned the atrocities and human rights violations, and urged the military dictatorship to resolve the political problems of the country by political means.

Casual mention by the SPDC chairman, Gen. Than Shwe, in his speech on the SPDC commemorated Armed Forces Day, that the door to peace for the armed ethnic groups was kept open, while its forces were making an all-out attack on the KNLA 7th Brigade headquarters, was nothing but a show of arrogance.

In spite of the continuing hard-lined stance of

the military junta, the NDF and the DAB continue to call for the resolution of problems and conflicts by peaceful means.

*The international pressure that affects the income of SPDC, such as trade sanctions by the US, the withdrawal of GSP by the EU, is effective, but more is needed for persuading the SPDC towards the negotiation table and for positive change.

*Continued support for the refugees in terms of material assistance and protection is essential to keep up the hope and morale of the ethnic nationalities in their struggle for freedom, human rights and democracy.

*Unity is a problem that needs proper attention and maintenance. In our situation where there is quite a diversity in all the spheres of activities, we need more effort than usual to maintain it. All concerned should be aware of this, and also the fact that the SPDC is always trying to look for the tiniest cracks for driving a wedge in.



Making a lone trek to the Thai border after escaping a SLORC military offensive against her village.